

Release: December 20, 2002
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Missouri's Unemployment Rate Rose in November

Missouri labor market conditions weakened in November, as unemployment rose three-tenths of a percent to 4.8 percent from 4.5 percent in October. Missouri unemployment rate remains well below the nation's November unemployment rate of 6.0 percent.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the state's unemployment rate increased by two-tenths of a point to 5.1 percent. The adjusted unemployment rate had been below 5 percent in the previous three months. Still, the November rate is only marginally higher than the average for this year and the rate a year ago – both 5.0 percent.

“While we are concerned that our unemployment rate climbed in November, it is significant to note that we are still well below the national rate by more than one percent,” said Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Department of Economic Development. “But still we are still struggling through a long term downturn in our state’s labor market. Our unemployment rate is within one-tenth of a point from where it was this time last year.”

Non-farm payrolls decreased by 9,800 jobs in November. This drop in seasonally-adjusted payroll employment was broad-based. The biggest single decrease was in eating and drinking places, where employment fell by 2,200. The apparent decrease in November may be partly due to higher-than-usual employment in October, including stadium food service operations.

Manufacturing job losses were comparatively small, a net drop of only 800 spread through various industries. Construction employment continued to fall, dropping by 1,900. Transportation and public utilities employment was also down by 1,900.

In the service industries, business services employment slipped by 900 jobs. Various other service industries experienced smaller decreases. These were partly offset by gains, including 800 jobs each in health services and private educational services. State government lost another 800 jobs.

Some other industry groups were fairly stable. Finance, insurance and real estate employment was little changed over the month. Overall the trade industries, other than eating and drinking places, were little changed, with small gains in some industries generally offsetting small losses elsewhere.

Over the past year, non-farm payrolls have dropped by 47,400 jobs, or 1.8 percent. This was slightly larger than the job loss between October 2001 and October 2002. Industries or industry groups with large losses include construction -- 11,300; manufacturing -- 9,200; wholesale trade -- 8,300; business services -- 7,500; transportation and public utilities -- 7,100; finance, insurance, and real estate -- 2,800; and state government -- 2,700.

Although losses predominated, there have been some industries that have grown, including health services (2,100 jobs), private educational services (1,900 jobs), and local government, including public schools (2,000 jobs).

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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES
CURRENT MONTH (NOVEMBER 2002), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2002), AND YEAR AGO (NOVEMBER 2001)

	NOV 2002	OCT 2002	SEP 2002	NOV 2001		NOV 2002	OCT 2002	SEP 2002	NOV 2001
U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	5.7	5.3	5.4	5.3	Atchison	2.6	2.1	2.5	2.9
MISSOURI	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.7	Audrain	4.2	3.6	4.3	3.9
ST. LOUIS MSA	5.1	4.9	5.0	4.9	Barton	3.9	3.3	3.4	3.5
Franklin	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.8	Bates	6.6	6.1	6.7	5.9
Jefferson	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.5	Benton	6.7	5.9	5.4	8.8
Lincoln	5.2	4.7	4.3	4.8	Caldwell	6.2	6.1	6.3	6.2
St. Charles	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.5	Carroll	5.1	4.2	4.5	4.0
St. Louis County	4.2	4.1	4.2	3.9	Cedar	6.3	4.8	4.8	4.4
Warren	5.2	4.2	3.7	4.8	Chariton	6.4	7.1	7.4	6.6
St. Louis City	8.4	8.3	8.7	8.5	Clark	5.5	4.9	5.6	7.6
KANSAS CITY MSA	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.6	Cooper	4.0	3.5	4.0	5.9
Cass	4.1	3.7	3.6	3.5	Crawford	5.8	5.3	5.4	6.4
Clay	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.2	Dade	4.2	3.9	4.3	4.3
Clinton	4.7	4.2	4.5	3.6	Dallas	6.9	6.1	6.3	7.6
Jackson	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.1	Daviess	4.5	5.0	4.7	4.3
Lafayette	4.2	3.9	4.2	4.0	DeKalb	4.4	3.6	3.8	4.0
Platte	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.2	Dent	7.4	5.6	5.5	8.4
Ray	4.1	3.7	3.9	3.3	Douglas	9.9	9.7	9.9	11.9
SPRINGFIELD MSA	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.5	Dunklin	7.0	6.3	6.0	6.9
Christian	4.5	4.4	3.9	3.3	Gasconade	4.7	4.0	4.7	5.2
Greene	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.5	Gentry	3.4	2.9	3.2	3.7
Webster	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.2	Grundy	4.2	3.6	4.0	4.7
JOPLIN MSA	5.1	4.7	4.8	4.3	Harrison	4.6	3.7	3.7	3.1
Jasper	4.6	4.3	4.6	4.0	Henry	5.9	5.0	5.0	5.8
Newton	6.1	5.4	5.3	5.0	Hickory	7.6	6.1	6.9	8.5
COLUMBIA MSA	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.8	Holt	4.5	3.2	3.5	3.6
Boone	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.8	Howard	4.4	3.5	4.0	4.6
ST. JOSEPH MSA	5.4	5.0	4.9	5.5	Iron	7.7	8.0	7.8	7.6
Andrew	4.3	4.1	3.8	4.3	Johnson	3.8	3.3	3.4	3.2
Buchanan	5.6	5.2	5.1	5.7	Knox	2.6	2.7	2.8	3.3
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	2.4	2.1	2.4	4.9	Laclede	5.3	4.8	4.7	6.4
Adair	2.2	2.0	2.3	4.8	Lewis	3.3	2.8	3.2	4.8
Schuyler	3.3	2.7	2.6	5.2	Linn	9.7	11.0	11.5	11.1
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	5.6	5.0	4.8	6.5	Livingston	3.8	3.5	3.7	2.9
Butler	5.3	4.7	4.6	5.8	McDonald	6.4	5.7	5.3	5.9
Carter	5.9	4.2	5.3	6.9	Macon	5.5	5.0	5.7	8.4
Ripley	6.2	6.2	5.6	9.0	Madison	7.5	6.7	7.2	8.8
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	6.6	4.6	4.2	7.0	Mercer	5.9	3.7	3.3	3.6
Camden	6.7	4.7	4.2	7.0	Monroe	6.4	5.3	5.5	6.0
Miller	6.4	4.5	4.2	7.1	Montgomery	4.7	4.4	4.4	5.3
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	5.0	4.6	4.6	5.4	Morgan	6.9	5.6	5.5	7.8
Bollinger	4.9	4.5	4.8	9.6	Nodaway	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.3
Cape Girardeau	3.6	3.2	3.3	3.4	Ozark	5.3	4.8	4.0	6.0
Mississippi	7.6	7.1	6.0	8.8	Pemiscot	10.2	9.2	9.0	10.1
New Madrid	9.4	8.7	8.8	7.2	Perry	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.7
Scott	4.9	4.7	4.9	6.2	Pettis	4.9	4.7	5.0	8.0
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	3.0	2.7	3.0	3.0	Pike	4.6	4.4	4.4	5.8
Callaway	3.2	2.8	3.1	3.5	Polk	3.9	3.7	4.2	4.0
Cole	2.6	2.3	2.5	2.4	Pulaski	4.2	3.9	4.2	5.4
Moniteau	3.4	3.6	4.1	3.9	Putnam	3.8	3.2	3.0	4.6
Osage	4.1	3.4	3.8	3.9	Randolph	4.5	4.1	4.6	4.6
HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA	4.8	4.4	4.6	5.2	Reynolds	10.6	7.8	8.0	11.1
Howell	4.5	4.3	4.8	4.6	St. Clair	5.1	4.9	5.1	4.7
Oregon	3.4	3.5	3.5	4.6	Ste. Genevieve	4.6	4.3	4.6	4.6
Shannon	7.6	5.9	4.8	8.7	Saline	4.7	4.5	4.8	6.4
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	4.5	3.9	4.0	5.0	Scotland	3.2	2.9	3.1	4.1
Barry	4.8	3.9	4.1	5.0	Shelby	4.0	3.6	4.0	5.8
Lawrence	4.2	3.9	3.9	5.1	Stoddard	6.0	5.1	5.0	6.6
MARION-RALLS LMA	4.5	4.3	4.7	5.0	Stone	7.0	5.0	5.1	6.8
Marion	4.4	4.3	4.5	5.0	Sullivan	3.4	2.8	3.0	3.2
Ralls	4.9	4.4	5.0	5.2	Taney	3.9	3.1	3.2	3.9
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.3	Texas	6.6	5.1	5.2	8.3
Maries	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.9	Vernon	4.4	4.3	4.6	3.8
Phelps	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.2	Wayne	11.0	9.1	10.0	10.8
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	7.6	6.9	7.0	7.5	Worth	4.0	3.7	3.7	5.0
St. Francois	7.1	6.6	6.7	7.2	Wright	7.8	6.8	7.8	9.8
Washington	8.6	7.7	7.7	8.1					

NOTE: Data for counties within MSAs/LMAs are disaggregated from MSA/LMA totals.

Produced by Missouri Department of Economic Development, MERIC, in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics